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EDITORIAL REPORT

Edited by Ray Montgomery Date March 3, 1941

Subject Chapter Four, The People Project Pocahontas County History

Writer Richard F. Dilworth Status ~~_____~~ 1st Editing

REWRITE

Remarks: This chapter is well-handled as is, but a few points need clarification and elaboration. These are marked directly on the manuscript and you will find them easy to find. There is a section on county formation that should be condensed to a mere mention as a transition from the preceding material to the page 22 beginning of a discussion of nationalities. The War between the States material is so smoothly joined with the social picture before and after the interim of struggle that I am inclined to think that in this one county write-up the story of the war should be left in Chapter Four. However, the matter on county organization must be condensed to a mere mention or duplication in the chapter on government will be inevitable. Note reparagraphing on pages 6 and 7. The work of re-arranging and improving this material will not require further research nor any great length of time. Largely, it is a matter of clarification.

WEST VIRGINIA
May 7, 1941

METHOD OF DEVELOPING
COUNTY HISTORY MATERIAL

This method of development is designed to strike a happy medium between the chronological development of history text and the American Guide style which made necessary many cross-references. Under the general topic headings the material would be treated cumulatively as the story approached the present. Human interest material would be used wherever possible, and every opportunity for the use of names of people alive or dead would be utilized. The chapter headings below are subject to revision.

1. Preface and the usual acknowledgments.
2. Contemporary scene. This history would open with colorful but accurate description of the county at present; this would be the place for statistics as to its size, population, altitude, productivity, rank and importance in relation to others in the state or in its area. Here also would be short contemporary descriptions of towns and villages of any size or importance. This chapter would be short, and designed to establish the locals for the reader but would afford a throwback to the county's beginning.
3. Natural setting. This would be a concise treatment of geography, topography, climate, rivers, mountains, plant and animal life, in non-technical language for the average reader. The county's scenic sights would be here mentioned if there are any outstanding views or natural phenomena.
4. The people. This subject would be handled genetically: first, a record of the vestiges of the aborigines, such as Mound Builders; then the Indians, as to the tribes and general history within the confines of the county; then a record of the successive migrations of white men; giving their racial antecedents, occupations, why they

came, outstanding figures among them, their contributions to the standards of county life then and now. Any special ethnic groupings would be handled independently.

5. Early Life and Occupations. Sketch the frontiersman's occupations, hunting, trapping and fishing; then agriculture which first anchored him to one spot; then lumbering, early mining and quarrying, and the beginnings of the gas and oil developments. Handicrafts and any unusual or extraordinary occupations would be brought in here.
6. Religion. Next treated because the first permanent settlers immediately built some sort of a church and worshipped according to the belief that they had brought with them into the wilderness. In this chapter would be told the stories of the oldest churches, the leading sects, then and now, statistics on church membership, clerical figures of note, outstanding churches, brief sketches of church history from circuit rider to town cleric.
7. Commerce and Industry. Taking up from occupations; the growth of large industries, introduction of corporate industry and the mass-production extractives. Emphasize the county's productive status today and the fields in which it ranks high. Natural resources would be treated here, as a basis of tomorrow's industry.
8. Transportation and Communication. From the buffalo and Indian trails to the rivers and coach roads, highways, steam and electric railroads, including the communication services and their history. Conclude with the bus, train and other services available today.
9. Education. After industry and transportation came the stabilization which brought urban groupings and education. With the story of the school system in the county would be a short history of each college or academy in the county, if any.

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10. County Government. All about the county's formation; its political sentiments in times of great national or state happenings; its outstanding public servants or reformers; roads and schools operated by the county.
11. Cultural and Social Advances. The history and functions of institutions, public and private; all public welfare, public health and recreational activities. Also the history of the arts and a sketch of any widely known artists or writers who were natives of or lived in the county.
12. Recapitulation. The story of the county's people as their thoughts and deeds were influenced by outstanding events or epochal changes in the history of the nation and the state. What did they think and do during the Revolutionary War? How did they stand on slavery? On separation from Virginia? On the free silver issue? On prohibition, etc.?
13. A List of Points of Historic Interest, with a short description of each and directions for reaching them.
14. A Calendar of Annual Events in tabulated form.
15. Directory of Permanent Organization in the county, and perhaps of public offices. Also other official data such as election days, voting provisions, etc. Perhaps a summary of peculiar or unusual town ordinances.
16. Biographical Sketches of prominent men or prominent families, arranged alphabetically.